

**In the Claims:**

Claims 1-3 (*Cancelled*)

4. (*Cancelled*)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the step of depositing an epitaxial layer based on Group IV elements on a silicon substrate by Chemical Vapor Deposition using source gases, and including employing nitrogen as a carrier gas,

wherein the epitaxial layer comprises  $\text{Si}_{1-x-y}\text{Ge}_x\text{C}_y$ .

6. (*Cancelled*)

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, which is carried out at a temperature that facilitates a CVD growth rate of an epitaxial layer that is substantially greater than a CVD growth rate of such an epitaxial layer using hydrogen as a carrier gas.

Claims 8-17 (*Cancelled*)

18. (*Cancelled*)

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, which is carried out at a temperature of less than about 600°C.

20. (*Cancelled*)

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, which is carried out at a temperature between 500°C and 600°C.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the source gases include  $\text{SiH}_4$ ,  $\text{GeH}_4$  and  $\text{SiH}_3\text{CH}_3$ .